all transmitters (public/private, digital/analogue) during natural disasters for (i) relaying life-saving information on the preventive measures and (ii) the rescue measures undertaken. EWS ready Radio and TV receivers can receive alarm signal and emergency broadcast signal even in sleep mode.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Prasar Bharati have informed that Research Department of AIR &DD have initiated a study of EWB System suitable for Indian environment. Limited experimental transmissions have also been carried out on Medium Wave and FM transmitters in Delhi. Prasar Bharti has large transmitting infrastructure. This can be selectively used to convey emergency messages to public concerned about natural disasters after incorporation on the EWBS. However, manufacturers will have to provide EWBS ready TV and Ready receivers.

Re-imbursement of expenses to State Governments on the ESI services

4528. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for reimbursement of expenses incurred by the State-Governments on the ESI Services;

(b) whether any decision has been taken in the meeting of the Board of Trustees of the ESIC on the reimbursement of expenses incurred over the prescribed ceiling to State Governments; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the follow up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The expenditure incurred by the State Government on provision of medical care services is reimbursed to the State Governments by ESI Corporation on the basis of prescribed ceiling of Rs. 1000/- per Insured Person family unit per annum. ESI Corporation in its meeting held on 23.12.2006 approved the enhancement of ceiling on medical care from Rs. 900/- per Insured Person family unit per annum to Rs. 1000/- per Insured Person family unit per annum with effect from 01.04.2007. In addition to Rs. 1000/-, the ESI Corporation has also decided to give an incentive of Rs. 50/- per Insured

Person per annum to the State Governments on fulfilling the stipulated terms and conditions for improvement of medical scheme. There was no discussion in the meeting of the ESI Corporation held on 23.12.2006 regarding reimbursement of expenses over the prescribed ceiling. The ESI Corporation has issued instructions conveying the enhancement of ceiling to State Governments on 24.01.2007.

Regional branches of EPF Appellate Tribunal

4529. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many cases are pending before the EPF Appellate Tribunal;

(b) what is the rate of disposal of cases before the EPF Appellate Tribunal during the last one year; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to establish regional benches of Employees Provident Fund Appellate Tribunal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) As on 31.3.2007, 4160 cases are pending before the EPF Appellate Tribunal.

(b) 267 cases were disposed of in the year 2006-07.

(c) Yes, Sir. The proposal to establish additional benches is under examination.

Pension fund scheme for unorganised sector

4530. SHRI. N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to create pension fund scheme for the unorganized sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the approximate number of beneficiaries estimated to be covered by this scheme, State-wise?